

Bamboo Mealybug

Palmicultor lumpurensis

Bamboo mealybug has been found for the first time in California in San Diego County. This new invasive species was found

attacking bamboo in Vista. The initial infestation was found on *Bambusa oldhammi*, however, other species of bamboo are susceptible as well.



Of the 30 species of mealybugs known to occur on bamboo, only the noxious bamboo mealybug, has been well established and it is only considered to cause minor damage.

Description



The adults and immatures of the bamboo mealybug are grayish-pink, covered by a fine white mealy wax, and lack lateral filaments. They superficially resemble the pink hibiscus mealybug, but this mealybug does not occur on bamboo and has not been found in San Diego County.

Distribution



The bamboo mealybug, native to Malaysia, was introduced into Florida in 2002 and was reported in Texas in 2004. This invasive species was found for the first time in California in Vista in October 2006.

Damage

Unlike the noxious bamboo mealybug, the bamboo mealybug causes considerable damage to the host plant. New shoots are more susceptible to damage and heavy populations can cause abortion of new shoots. Severe infestations could potentially kill stands of bamboo. New infestations are difficult to detect, but with heavy infestations the cottony white masses are easily visible.



What if you see this pest?

Currently, this pest has a California statewide "Q" rating which means the full economic impact of this pest has not been determined. While we don't believe this will become a major agricultural pest, if



you see this or any other suspicious insect, please report it to the County, Agriculture, Weights and Measures Entomology lab at 858-694-3897.